

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 JUSE-00 /033 W
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INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 05939

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA
SUBJECT: INQUIRY INTO CHARGES OF WRONGDOING BY RCMP

REF: OTTAWA 5517

1. SOLICITOR-GENERAL FRANCIS FOX INFORMED PARLIAMENT YESTERDAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED A ROYAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF WRONGDOING BY MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE (RCMP). THE COMMISSION'S TERMS OF REFERENCE CALL FOR AN INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL INVESTIGATIVE PRACTICES "OR OTHER ACTIVITIES INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE RCMP" AND INTO "THE RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES THAT GOVERN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RCMP." THE INQUIRY IS TO BE HELD IN CAMERA IN "ALL MATTERS RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND IN ALL OTHER MATTERS WHERE THE COMMISSIONERS DEEM IT ADVISABLE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST OR IN THE INTEREST OF THE PRIVACY OF INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPECIFIC CASES."

2. COMMENT: TWO WEEKS AGO THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WAS SEVERELY ATTACKED BY THE OPPOSITION AND THE MEDIA FOR AN ALLEGED COVER-UP OF A 1972 ILLEGAL BREAK-IN INVOLVING THE RCMP. AT THAT TIME, THE GOVERNMENT REJECTED OPPOSITION
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DEMANDS FOR A ROYAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE RCMP ON THE GROUNDS THAT AN INTERNAL INQUIRY BY THE GOVERNMENT WAS SUFFICIENT. SOLICITOR-GENERAL FOX SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED REPORTS, HOWEVER, INDICATING THAT RCMP OFFICERS, PARTICULARLY MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY SERVICE, HAD TAKEN PART IN OTHER ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

3. THESE REPORTS, PLUS A REQUEST BY THE RCMP ITSELF FOR A ROYAL COMMISSION, LED FOX TO REVERSE HIS POSITION AND DECIDE TO ORDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A BODY. SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE RCMP APPARENTLY CONCLUDED THAT, FOR THE FUTURE WELLBEING OF THE ORGANIZATION, IT WAS ESSENTIAL

THAT THE ALLEGATIONS OF WRONG-DOING BE CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED BY AN IMPARTIAL BODY.

4. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION SHOULD SILENCE THE OPPOSITION AND THE MEDIA ON THIS ISSUE, AT LEAST FOR A WHILE OR UNTIL THERE ARE LEAKS FROM THE INQUIRY, AS THERE UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA, RCMP, ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
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